

Submitter: Gregory Kautz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4010

I am a doctor of optometry practicing in the state of Oregon and I am submitting testimony in support the passage of HB 4010. The bill removes the requirement that optometrists have hospital consulting privileges in order to qualify for a rural tax credit.

Optometric Physicians are an important part of the health care system, serving as primary care providers. The people of Oregon seeking health care will more likely see an optometric physician more frequently than a Primary Care Provider. We serve as a referral source to assure patient receive appropriate and timely care in the medical system. The patient may be referred to a primary care provider or a sub-specialist depending on the diagnosis. We do far more than glasses and contact lenses. Our scope of practice allows us to treat patients who have eye infections, glaucoma, foreign body removal and other procedures that can be given, especially in the rural communities.

HB 4010 removes section C requiring optometric physicians to maintain hospital consulting privileges to qualify.

To incentivize optometric physicians to practice in rural communities, it is only fair to allow participation in the health care system without the discriminatory section requiring hospital privilege. The optometric physician provides services in the clinic setting without a need to utilize the more expensive hospital setting.

I ask you to vote a do pass of HB 4010 with section C removal intact.

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